

EDITOR'S LETTER

New submission categories for the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*

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From time to time, the *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)* changes its submission categories. In 2009, we introduced case studies. Now, in 2014, we are changing again. To better meet the needs of our readers and authors, we have added two new categories, research reports and systematic reviews, and are eliminating one category, brief communications. Exploratory research papers, formerly published as brief communications, now appear in a new category, research reports. Project descriptions formerly published

as brief communications will now appear as case studies. Requirements for the case studies format have been revised slightly to accommodate this change. To encourage an evidence-based approach to health sciences librarianship, systematic reviews will be used for literature reviews that take a systematic approach to analyzing previously published research on a topic. The full-length paper category has not been modified.

In part, these changes reflect what we learned from the 2012 *JMLA* readership survey. The new categories should make it easier to identify papers that describe new and

innovative projects, as all these papers will now be found in the case studies section of the *JMLA*. At the same time, we hope that the new category of systematic reviews will encourage more submissions that synthesize published evidence for our readers.

Details of each of these new categories appear on our Information for Authors web page <<http://www.mlanet.org/publications/jmla/jmlainfo.html>>. We look forward to your submissions.

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